

APPEAL FOR OUR ALMA MATER

An Oration Delivered on Senior Class Day at the Normal Auditorium
By A. F. Shroyer, of Barbour County.

At the time of the founding of our little Mountain State in 1863, we find dwelling among her hills, only a few thousand brave, hardy and liberty-loving pioneers. Their education was for the most part in the forest, for so negligent had the mother State been of the interest of her fair daughter, that from the Virginia State line to the Ohio, only a few log cabin school houses were to be found. Instead of the school bell echoing from hill to hill, one could hear only the report of the hunter's rifle, the ring of the woodman's axe, or the sound of the threshing flail on the old barn floor. Yet as strong as was the spirit of liberty among the hardy people, it was not stronger than was the spirit of progress. The noble men who founded our State saw with clear vision her greatest need—the development of manhood and womanhood through the education of her boys and girls—so they laid the foundation of her future greatness in the establishment of a free school system.

Under this system, the schools began to increase rapidly and in 1865, we find in existence more than four hundred schools with a total enrollment of eighteen thousand pupils. At the head of this noble work was Dr. White, a man of foresight, who had the strength and courage of a pioneer to institute new measures and carry them out. He did much toward founding our efficient school system, and in arousing an educational interest in West Virginia.

Our school system had not long been in existence until the people of the State saw the great need of efficient teachers as well as schools that would prepare our teachers for competent work; so in 1865 the first Normal School in the State was established by private citizens at Fairmont. But before they completed their building, it passed, in 1868, under the control of the State. During this time the Legislature had established a Normal School at Huntington, and in a few years West Virginia had six Normal Schools. We, as West Virginians, are proud of all these institutions, and realize that they have been a great benefit to the people; but we are proudest of our own State Normal at Fairmont. Dr. White, the first principal of this school after it became a State institution, desired to establish a model school in which he could train the young men and young women for one of the most important positions in life, that of teacher.

By his untiring efforts, he laid the foundation upon which his successor, Dr. Blair, built a strong institution. As in all other great undertakings of life, it seems as if a kind Providence furnished this noble man for the purpose of completing a structure which for over thirty years has stood the attacks of the enemies of progress and enlightenment. For this great work, he was well prepared, and he was able to inspire every pupil under his instruction to obtain an education that he might become a useful citizen. There was real life in the school, and each year many new faces were seen within her halls. The people now began to see what the school was doing for this part of the State, so that when she was assailed in 1885-6 by the Legislature the friends of the school were able to withstand the attack, and to bring her out of the contest stronger than ever before.

The growth of an institution of learning is like the growth of an individual. Protected only by the care of the devoted few, it must pass through the period of infancy and childhood. It must withstand the various attacks of unpopularity, of poverty, and of uncertainty to prove that it possesses the inherent principles of virtue and worth.

After this struggle of '75-6, the school made rapid progress. Year after year she sent out teachers who gave proof of the good work that was being done by the institution under her wise director—teachers who became leaders in the brave army fighting among our hills and valleys, for the true emancipation of a strong people. To Dr. Blair the school owes its early prosperity and growth. He was criticized but he remained at his post and withstood the storms of adversity until 1878 when he was summoned into the great beyond. We, who are reaping the benefit of his labor, can well say with those who came under his personal influence:

"I knew him but to love him,
I knew him but to praise."

It was always true of any great institution that it was firmly established by the aid of a few noble

cal period in the history of the school. It was during this time that the Legislature failed to make any appropriation. Some of the teachers who had been earnest workers in the school for several years resigned, but others, believing in the nobility of their work and recognizing its importance, worked on. Still the influence of Dr. Blair lived, and this, together with the spirit of the many friends of the institution, carried her safe through this period. This opposition seemed to strengthen the school, for she now made such rapid growth that a new building became a necessity, as in 1893, the school was moved from the old Normal hall to the present commodious building. She was now recognized as the strongest Normal School in the State.

Then in 1901 came a period that may indeed be considered critical. The question now arose as to the number of Normal Schools West Virginia should maintain. Certain men high in power and influence were in favor of abolishing some of the Normal Schools and of removing the Fairmont Normal to some other place in the State. The question is not yet settled. The time may not be far distant when this purpose will be carried out. When this is done, this institution will pass out of existence. The real value of a school or college is its heritage of a past, rich in memories of noble men and women who have freely poured forth of their best—their inspiration, their ideals and their hopes—for its upbuilding. The atmosphere of a noble past full of high ideals and noble courage is the very breath of life to an institution such as ours. This is something that cannot be removed at a word of command and given to another school. We feel unseen presences in our halls and class rooms that inspire us. The very walls have for us memories of our own experiences that are precious to us. To hundreds of the truest and best men and women of our State the very name, the Fairmont Normal School, is the embodiment of the hopes and ambitions that have inspired them in their life work.

There are none so blind as those who will not see. Is commercial interest alone holding our attention? At a period, when money is coming in from all sides, when our people are more prosperous than ever before, when our little Mountain State is pouring out wealth—such as our fathers never dreamed of, when we are amply able to put our educational institutions not only on a sure footing but on a broad basis of usefulness; then it is that we forget that the education of the heart and intellect is better than silver and gold. We forget that culture which no misfortune can depress, no despotism enslave—the culture that gives grace and security to the individual and order to the State is the only true wealth. The State has not yet granted to this school the facilities which would enable our Alma Mater to fulfill her manifold destiny—the promise of her glorious past. In this respect we are poor, but it is not alone in money that this is true. We are poor in that we need men who are willing, if need be, to sacrifice their own personal interests to the good of the institution; we are poor in enthusiasm and in unselfishness.

Citizens, will you allow our beloved school to be blotted out, a school of which you are all proud, and which has educated many of you as well as your sons and daughters, a school which has brought many good citizens to your town, and which has furnished you noble young men and women as teachers for your public schools? Are you willing for this?

Members of the Alumni, will you not rally around your Alma Mater as the boys in blue rallied around the Stars and Stripes in '61? Can you afford to see the school which has given you a thorough training for your life work, closed or removed from its native town? Is that old school spirit so frozen in your veins, that you will permit this? O citizens! Alumni! Students! Let us stand by our institution, and uphold the banner of loyalty to the Fairmont State Normal School.

"My boy doesn't seem to have got along here very well," said the office boy's father.

"Well, to be perfectly frank with you," replied the employer, "I must say he does not."

"Ah! What's the trouble?"

"He hasn't any trouble; it's the rest of us who have that!"—Boston Post.

Mabel—I do believe Miss Bonds is in love with that poor young lawyer. Clara—What a shame! And she would make such a good wife for some fellow who was marrying for money.—Puck.

I have a saloon centrally located for sale quick. H. H. Lanham.

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

To the World's Fair, Very Low Rates.

Various forms of excursion tickets to St. Louis via Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, now on sale from Fairmont as follows:

Season tickets, good to return until December 15, 1904, to be sold daily at rate of \$26.80, round trip.

Sixty day excursion tickets, final limit not later than December 15, 1904, to be sold daily at rate of \$22.35, round trip.

Fifteen day excursion tickets, to be sold daily at rate of \$18.75, round trip.

Ten day special coach excursion tickets on sale Every Tuesday in June, good going in day coaches only, on special coach trains, or in coaches on designated trains, limited for return passage leaving St. Louis not later than ten days, including date of sale, at rate of \$13.00, round trip.

Variable route excursion tickets, either season or sixty day, will be sold going via one direct route and returning via another direct route, full information concerning which can be obtained from ticket agent.

Stop-overs, not exceeding ten days at each point will be allowed at Washington, Deer Park, Mountain Lake Park, Oakland and Mitchell, Ind., (for French Lick and West Baden Springs) within return limit, upon notice to conductor and deposit of ticket with depot ticket agent immediately upon arrival.

Stop-overs not exceeding ten days will be allowed at St. Louis on all one-way (except Colonists' tickets to the Pacific Coast) and round trip tickets reading to points beyond St. Louis, upon deposit of ticket with Validating Agent and payment of fee of \$1.00.

Three solid vestibuled trains are run daily from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, via Parkersburg and Cincinnati to St. Louis.

Three solid vestibuled trains are run daily from Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Columbus via Cincinnati, to St. Louis.

Magnificent coaches, sleeping cars, observation cars and unexcelled dining car service.

For illustrated folder, time table and full information, call at ticket office, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

Very Low Rate Sunday Excursion
Tickets On Sale May 15.

Effective May 15 and continuing every Sunday thereafter until further notice, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad will place on sale excursion tickets between stations of Wheeling and Grafton, good going East bound on regular train No. 72, leaving Fairmont at 10:52 A. M., and returning on regular trains No. 71-55, leaving Grafton 12:40 noon, and 6:50 P. M.; and good going West bound on regular train No. 5, leaving Fairmont at 7:47 A. M., and returning on regular train No. 4, leaving Wheeling at 5:00 P. M. For tickets and full information, call on ticket agent.

T. B. HENDERSON.

ONE FARE FOR THE ROUND TRIP

To the Republican National Convention, Chicago, Ill., Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Account Republican National convention, at Chicago, Ill., June 21-24, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company will place on sale excursion tickets to that point on June 16th to 20th, inclusive, good returning until June 29th, 1904, inclusive.

Call on ticket agents for full information.

Fare for the round trip, \$13.00.

You will find a complete line of base ball goods and bicycle repairs at J. L. Hall's Hardware Store.

Hammocks, lawn swings and porch seats are some the summer pleasures to be had at J. L. Hall's Hardware Store.

DR. MOTT'S PENNYROYAL PILLS

The only safe, sure and reliable Female Pill ever offered to Ladies. Especially recommended to married Ladies. Ask for DR. MOTT'S PENNYROYAL PILLS and take no other. SEND FOR CIRCULAR Price \$1.00 per box, 6 boxes for \$5.00. DR. MOTT'S CHEMICAL CO., Cleveland, Ohio. Sold by M. D. Christie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Of Reduced Fares Authorized via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Summer Season, 1904.

Atlantic City and Seashore.

Special low rate excursions from all points east of the Ohio river on June 20th, July 14th and 28th, August 11th and 25th, and September 8th.

Atlantic City, N. J.

American Academy of Medicine (June 4-6) and American Medical Association (June 7-10). Very low rates. Tickets on sale June 2d and 6th, inclusive, good returning June 4th to 13th, inclusive.

Atlantic City, N. J.

Imperial Council, Ancient Order of Mystic Shrine, July 13-15. Very low rates. Tickets on sale July 11th and 12th, good returning until July 23d, inclusive.

Boston, Mass.

National Encampment, G. A. R., August 15-20. One fare for the round trip. Tickets on sale August 13th to 15th, good returning until August 20th, inclusive.

Cincinnati, O.

Grand Lodge, B. P. O. Elks, July 18-23. One fare plus \$1.00 for the round trip. Tickets on sale July 15th, 16th, 17th, good returning until July 23d, inclusive.

Detroit, Mich.

Baptist Young People's Union of America, International Convention, July 7-10. One fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip. Tickets on sale July 5th to 7th, good returning until July 12th, inclusive.

Indianapolis, Ind.

National Prohibition Convention, June 28-30. One fare for the round trip. Tickets on sale June 20th to 27th, good returning until July 10th, inclusive.

Louisville, Ky.

Knights of Pythias, Biennial Encampment, August 16-19. One fare plus \$1.00 for the round trip. Tickets on sale August 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th, good returning until August 31st, inclusive.

San Francisco, Cal.

Triennial Conclave, Knights Templar, September 5-9. One fare for the round trip to Chicago or St. Louis added to fares tendered therefrom (Chicago \$50.00; St. Louis \$47.50). Dates of sale to be announced later.

San Francisco, Cal.

Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., September 19-25. One fare for the round trip to Chicago or St. Louis added to fares tendered therefrom (Chicago \$50.00; St. Louis \$47.50). Dates of sale to be announced later.

Toronto, Ont.

Friends' General Conference, August 10-19. One fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip. Tickets on sale August 9th to 11th, good returning until August 31st, inclusive.

For additional information concerning rates, routes, time of trains, etc., call on or address ticket agents, Baltimore & Ohio R. R.

NOTICE

If you see a nice looking couple driving around with a good stylish horse, elegant harness, nobby run-a-bout, carriage or trap, with nice clean robes, and everything to match, you can wager ten to one it was hired from the Jackson Livery Barn, as we put out only that kind. FRED S. JACKSON, Manager. Open day and night.

HOTEL "BELLEVUE"

FACING BEAUTIFUL OHIO RIVER. Between both Depots, and best location in City.

Everything about the house first-class. Rates \$1.50 and \$2.00. Baths and Bar Attacher to Hotel.

1208 to 1214 Water Street, WHEELING, W. Va.

"You Can't Beat Us Unless You Cheat."

SKINNER'S TAVERN

At the Depot.

The largest and handsomest Sample rooms in the Country located in the new \$200,000. Court House.

B. G. WILLIAMS, Prop. Fairmont, W. Va.

SAFES LOANED TO DEPOSITORS.

One dollar opens a Savings account.

We loan you the safe. We keep the key.

Savings accounts draw four per cent. interest, same being compounded semi-annually.

Call and get a safe. It will help you save.

HOME SAVINGS BANK.

DO YOU NEED MONEY

If you do, SEE LEVI B. HARR

THE MAN WHO MAKES YOU MONEY.

322 1-2 Main Street.

Sterling Silver!

We Are Showing a Very Complete Line of Sterling Silverware Suitable * for Wedding and Anniversary Presents.

RIHELDAFFER & BROWNFIELD.

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD.

PASSENGER trains will arrive at and depart from Fairmont on the following schedule on and after May 22d, 1904.

MONONGAH DIVISION.

No. 5.—Arrives at Fairmont 5:35 P. M.
No. 1.—Arrives at Fairmont 12:10 P. M.
No. 3.—Arrives at Fairmont 7:45 A. M.
No. 2.—Leaves Fairmont... 7:10 A. M.
No. 6.—Leaves Fairmont... 1:53 P. M.
No. 4.—Leaves Fairmont... 9:55 P. M.
All trains are daily except Nos. 3 and 4 on the F. M. and P. branch, which are daily except Sunday.

For sleeping car reservations and information concerning tickets and rates, consult

T. B. HENDERSON, Ticket Agent.

WEST BOUND.
No. 7.—Chicago Express. 4:24 A. M.
No. 5.—Wheeling Accommodation. 7:47 A. M.
No. 55.—Wheeling & Cincinnati Express. 7:29 P. M.
No. 71.—Wheeling Accommodation. 1:36 P. M.
EAST BOUND.
No. 8.—New York, Baltimore and Washington Express. 3:25 A. M.
No. 72.—Grafton Accom'n 10:53 A. M.
No. 46.—New York, Baltimore and Washington Express. 1:48 P. M.
No. 4.—Grafton Accom'n 8:38 P. M.

F. M. AND P. BRANCH.

ARRIVES.
No. 50.—Pittsburg Accom'n 1:00 P. M.
No. 4.—Pittsburg Accom'n 9:55 P. M.
DEPARTS.

No. 3.—Pittsburg Accom'n 7:50 A. M.
No. 51.—Connellsville Accom'n 2:10 P. M.
No. 69 leaves daily for Morgantown at 9:05 P. M. No. 62 arrives from Morgantown at 6:55 A. M., daily except Sunday; at 8:00 A. M. Sunday only.

If it's an ideal wedding gift you are looking for, Cochran, the reliable jeweler, has it specially selected for the occasion.

I have some good lots in two squares of Court-house for sale at \$375.00. H. H. Lanham.

The Bank of Fairmont, FAIRMONT, W. VA.

J. E. WATSON, President.
J. S. HAYDEN, Vice President.
WALTON MILLER, Cashier.
Capital, \$150,000.00.
Undivided Profits, \$160,000.00.

DIRECTORS:

A. B. Fleming, J. S. Hayden, J. E. Watson, M. L. Hutchinson, F. E. Nichols, O. S. McKinney, C. E. Manley.

Transacts a general banking business. Accounts of corporations, firms and individuals received upon the most favorable terms consistent with sound and conservative banking. Interest paid on time deposits. Separate vault with safety deposit boxes for use of customers.

The First National Bank of Fairmont, W. Va.

Capital Stock, - \$100,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits, - 165,000.00

Designated Depository of the United States and State of West Virginia.

J. M. HARTLEY, President.
Hon. A. B. FLEMING, Vice President.
JOS. E. SANDS, Cashier.

DIRECTORS:

J. M. Hartley, Hon. A. B. Fleming, Benj. D. Fleming, Wm. E. Watson, Jos. E. Sands.

Chartered as State Bank in 1851. Organized as National Bank in 1865. Rechartered as National Bank in 1885. Wants business based on balances and responsibility. Collects on all points. Sells domestic and foreign exchange. Pays interest on special deposits. Customers' private boxes taken care of in our fire and burglar proof vault free of charge.

Citizens' Dollar Savings Bank, FAIRMONT, W. VA.

Opened for business Groundhog Day—February 2d, 1903.

CAPITAL STOCK - \$100,000.00.

OFFICERS:

A. L. LEHMAN, J. A. CLARK, President, Vice President.
J. R. LINN, Cashier.

DIRECTORS:

A. L. Lehman, J. A. Clark, J. P. Hart, J. F. Cook, L. C. Powell, C. W. Swisher, W. H. Nicholson, Jr.

Does a general banking business.

4 Per Cent. Interest Paid on Savings Deposits. It's What You Save, Not What You Earn, That Makes Wealth.

The People's Bank of Fairmont, W. Va.

CAPITAL STOCK, \$200,000.00.

George M. Jacobs, President
George DeBolt, Cashier
J. M. Brownfield, Assistant Cashier

Directors—G. M. Jacobs, S. L. Watson, J. M. Hartley, Harry Shaw, W. S. Haymond and C. E. Hutchinson.

All business entrusted to us will receive prompt and careful attention.

SOLICIT YOUR ACCOUNTS. Interest paid on time deposits. Vault is free to customers for private boxes and papers.

For Good FOTOS, Go To THE PALACE STUDIO Gunningham Block.

NEW CENTRAL HOTEL, CORNER

Porter Alley and Monroe Street, C. V. ABBOTT, Proprietor.

Rooms have been remodeled and thoroughly renovated.

Rooms with bath.

First class bar attached.